(b) whether it is a also a fact that the UNCLOS requires that, if dispute is not settled, the disputed water would be declared international Water; and

(c) if so, the details of various claims made by India and their status with regard to claims of neighouring countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (UNCLOS) is the universally recognized regime, which has established a comprehensive framework for the regulation of all ocean space. The Convention entered into force on 16 November, 1994. India is a State Party to the Convention.

According to the Convention, a state has Territorial Waters of 12 Nautical Miles and an Exclusive Economic Zone of 200 Nautical Miles determined in accordance with the provisions of the Convention. As far as India is concerned, this is also the position reflected in the Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and Other Maritime Zones Act, 1976.

Claims for a Continental Shelf beyond 200 Nautical Miles are to be submitted to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf by 12 May, 2009.

Collection and examination of necessary data are underway for the purpose of preparing and submitting India's claim for an extended continental Shelf to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, within the prescribed timeframe. In case of any overlapping claim between neighbouring countries, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982, provides that the issue should be resolved by these countries bilaterally through negotiations.

Border trade between India and China

3167. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has shown its willingness to talks on border trade with India in Kashmir;

(b) if so, to what extent agreement between India and China on border trade through Kashmir has been reached;

(c) what are main features of the same;

(d) whether Pakistan would also be involved in this agreement;

(e) whether they have also clarified that the "Line of Actual Control" in "next step" in boundary talks between two countries; and

(f) whether India and China during Chinese Premier visit to India in April, 2005 signed agreements on guiding principles and political parameters to resolve the boundary dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) In official talks with India, the Chinese side has not proposed conducting border trade with Jammu and Kashmir state of India.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Yes, Sir.

Thailand's Prime Minister Visit to India

†3168. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:
SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister of Thailand had recently visited India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the leaders with whom Prime Minister of Thailand had held talks;

(d) the issues on which the leaders of both the countries were in consensus; and

(e) the details of the agreements and MoUs signed with him?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (e) The Thai Prime Minister Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra paid a working visit to India on 3rd June 2005

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.